

HALF-AND-HALF PLAN IS ATTACKED BY BLACKBURN, WHO FRAMED ACT

TORPEDOING OF LINER ANCONA JUSTIFIED BY BERLIN PRESS

Attempt to Escape Accepted as Proved—Contend Submarine Was Austrian and Cite Baralong Case as Example.

Two Big Transatlantic Liners in New Submarine Zone Today Carrying 2,228 Passengers Bound for Naples.

BERLIN (via Sayville wireless), Nov. 12.—Torpedoing the Italian liner Ancona was perfectly justified, the Berlin press agrees today, by the vessel's attempt to escape, which the newspapers all accept as proved.

Concerning the question of the submarine's nationality, the papers point out that all accounts say the boat flew the Austrian flag, arguing that while a war craft may hoist the colors of a country other than its own for strategic reasons, it certainly would fly its own in action.

CITE BARALONG CASE.
In support of this contention one paper cites the much discussed Baralong case, asserting that the British vessel approached the German submarine under the Stars and Stripes, but hoisted the Union Jack "before murdering the German sailors."

Fragmental Reports on Ancona Only Allowed To Pass Rome Censor

LONDON, Nov. 12.—Belief that the Italian censors are withholding messages dealing with important phases of the sinking of the liner Ancona, is growing.

A few fragmentary dispatches, touching on minor details of the torpedoing (Continued on Third Page.)

HOUSE OF DAVID MAY GO TO CALIFORNIA

King Benjamin Threatens to Move All His Followers From Fertile Fields of Michigan.

ST. JOSEPH, Mich., Nov. 12.—Benjamin, King of the House of David Colony, near here, and his flock of more than 1,000 followers, may sell their fertile acres in the heart of Michigan's fruit belt, close up "Shiloh," "Jerusalem," "the Ark" and "the inner courts" and move to California.

Wife of Ex-Postmaster
Accidentally Shot



MRS. JOHN A. MERRITT.

HUNT MEN WHO SHOT MRS. JOHN MERRITT

Posses Search for Automobile, While Wife of Ex-Postmaster Undergoes Operation.

RUFFALO, N. Y., Nov. 12.—Mrs. John A. Merritt, wife of John A. Merritt, former Postmaster of Washington, the Niagara county political leader, is at the county hospital where birdshot is being removed from her neck, arms, and shoulders. She was shot yesterday while riding to her home in Lockport in an automobile.

The shooting occurred as a car, containing a party of hunters, passed the Merritt car going in the opposite direction. It is believed that the occupants of the car were struggling for possession of the gun when the cartridge was exploded. Sheriff Stengel and Under Sheriff Zenger conducted an all night search for trace of the men in the car, but their identity has not been disclosed.

Car Swerved In Road.
The shooting occurred outside of the city line about 4:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Merritt had spent the day in Buffalo with friends and was on her way home. Approaching them from the north was a dark gray car that was swerving from right to left on the road. As near as could be ascertained it contained six men. The car was running at a fair rate of speed and from the uncertainty of the driver it was thought that the man at the wheel was intoxicated.

Joseph Weber, of Lockport, driver of the Merritt car, swung out to let the gray car pass. At that instant there was a loud report, and Weber slowed down, thinking that it was a blowout. "I'm shot," said Mrs. Merritt. She did not faint nor scream.

Before Rupert joined his wife in Baltimore, he was in Trenton. An entry in his diary, under a Trenton date line said "get letter from Miss S. with one in it from Rosalie and Jessie."

NEW YORK, Nov. 12.—A "Miss S." named in the diary of Henry C. Rupert, Richmond real estate man, may be able to tell why Rupert shot and killed his pretty young wife and then committed suicide here yesterday, the police believe.

ARMS PLANT FIRES PART OF BIG ARSON PLOT

Detectives Unearthing Nation-Wide Conspiracy Against Munitions Making.

WARNED OF GANG'S PLANS

Headquarters Believed to Be in New York—Seeking Financial Head.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 12.—With three almost simultaneous fires in war munition plants in this district, at Bethlehem, Eddystone and Trenton, it became known that the Federal Government has an army of investigators on the trail of a band of hyphenated plotters.

Frank Garbarino, who for several years has been in charge of the eastern Pennsylvania division of the Department of Justice investigators, has been missing from his Philadelphia office for a month, and his associates profess to know nothing about him, where he is, or what he is doing.

Matthew Griffin, the veteran Secret Service agent, is the only executive investigator of the Pennsylvania division who is at his office in the Postoffice buildings, but he pretends absolute ignorance about all fire plots and plotters, though he was too busy to be questioned about them.

It was learned, however, that all these three Government agencies of perhaps weeks on information pointing to an organized conspiracy against industrial concerns turning out war orders.

The Government is said to have received information about designs against several industrial establishments such as the Bethlehem Steel Works, the Eddystone plant of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, and the Rocking concern at Trenton, all of which are filling war orders, says the Philadelphia North American.

Tracing It To Its Source.
It is also said that the Government's investigators have obtained evidence that the fires in the munition plants were started by foreign plotters to prevent the war orders from being filled. Several arrests could have been made during the last few weeks, it is said. (Continued on Page Nine.)

CABINET DISCUSSES WILSON'S MESSAGE

First Session Agrees Upon Five Points to Be Urged Upon Congress.

For the first time in four months, or since July 20, President Wilson held a Cabinet meeting today. Every phase of the Administration's legislative program was gone into, and the Cabinet is understood to have agreed that the President's annual message shall urge:

1. Adequate national defense measures.
2. Ship purchase legislation.
3. Amendments to the anti-trust law which will permit industries in one line to maintain co-operative selling agencies in foreign markets.
4. Conservation legislation, including revision of the mining laws.
5. Economy in passage of appropriation bills.

JORDAN SEES PEACE MOVE BY CHRISTMAS

Leland Stanford Head Urges President to Co-operate With Neutrals in Plan.

FIRST MEETING IN MONTH

Preliminary Conference of Unofficial Representatives to Be Held in Berne.

Definite overtures by a group of leading neutral nations to the belligerent powers for the purpose of bringing about a cessation of the war in Europe will be under way by Christmas. This prediction was made today at the White House by Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford University and head of the International Peace Conference which recently met at San Francisco.

A preliminary meeting of unofficial representatives of the powers at war and of the neutral nations has been called for December 11 at Berne, Switzerland. Out of this, Dr. Jordan said, he expected that there would be created a continuous commission made up of equal official delegates from neutral nations, which would address to the nations at war a proposal of mediation. The commission, he predicted, would sit continuously until the close of the war at The Hague, Berne or Copenhagen.

Presents Resolutions.
Dr. Jordan's purpose in calling upon the President was to present to him resolutions adopted at the San Francisco congress calling on the President to co-operate with other neutral governments in calling a conference of neutral nations, which would constitute a (Continued on Third Page.)

ITALIANS PLEDGE HELP TO SERBIANS

Rome Dispatches Say Agreement Has Been Reached for Balkan Participation.

LONDON, Nov. 12.—Italy has agreed to lend sufficient aid to the allies in their Balkan campaign to insure their complete success, according to a dispatch from Rome today.

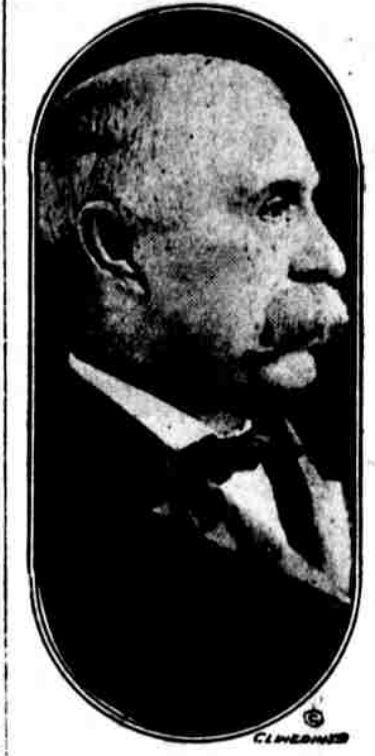
ATHENS, Nov. 12.—Intermittent skirmishing between the Bulgarians and the Anglo-French-Serb allies along a ninety-mile line across southern Serbia is merging today into a big general battle. The Bulgarian front extends from Tetovo, a Serb town twenty miles east of the Albanian frontier and seventy miles north of the Greek border, southeast through the Velez section and along the Vardar river, to the vicinity of Strumitza.

Opposing this line the British predominate in the southeast, the French at the center, and the Serbs are attacking in the northwest. If the Bulgarian line can be broken the way will be opened for the allies to combine with the Serb main army, which has been fighting the Austro-Germans. A combined assault will then be possible on the Austro-German invaders, whose front extends almost entirely across Serbia.

Serbs Racing for Freedom as German Forces Push Advance

BERLIN (via Sayville wireless), Nov. 12.—The Serbian main army is racing for freedom through the valleys and mountain defiles south of the western Morava. The Bulgarians and Austro-Germans operating along the Orient railroad are in pursuit, the war office announces. The Austro-Germans farther to the westward, are trying to get between the Serbs and the Montenegrin frontier. The pursuing forces took 1,300 prisoners and eleven cannon yesterday in (Continued on Page Eighteen.)

Framer of Organic Act
On Witness Stand



FORMER SENATOR J. C. S. BLACKBURN.

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY ACCUSES EX-CONSUL

Charges Dr. Gorlicar With Secretly Plotting With Russian and Serbian Agents.

Dr. Josef Gorlicar is accused of secretly plotting with Russian and Serbian agents with the intent of disseminating disloyalty among Austro-Hungarian emigrants, is a statement issued today by the Austrian embassy.

"Ex-Consul Dr. Gorlicar, formerly of San Francisco, had been on leave of absence at the time of the outbreak of the war and had been temporarily attached to the Austro-Hungarian consulate general in Berlin. There, very soon afterward, he obtained knowledge that the Austro-Hungarian authorities had received information about his secret connection with the enemies of Austria-Hungary, and evidently fearing detection, he suddenly left his post without permission, and disappeared."

"Contributed To Treason."
"Later on it was learned that he had gone to Italy and was staying in Rome, whereupon he tendered his resignation, thereby preventing his dismissal. "While in Rome it was ascertained that he was in close relations with Russian and Serbian agents, obviously with the purpose of going to the United States to use his knowledge of the centers of Slavic immigration coming from the monarchies, in the service of the Pan-Slavic propaganda, and with the intention of disseminating disloyalty among our immigrants against their country of birth. The Austro-Hungarian embassy has been informed that quite a number of southern Slavs from the monarchy have been enlisted by the agents of the allies and left this country in order to fight against Austria-Hungary. It is very probable that Dr. Gorlicar's subversive activity contributed to these very regrettable acts of treason which certainly, without changing the outcome of the war, will be of the gravest consequences for those who will be made prisoners of war."

Declares Charge False.
"The Austro-Hungarian embassy has been informed for several months of Dr. Gorlicar's agitatory propaganda carried on in this country, but has refrained until now from taking counter measures, being aware of the disgrace brought about by the fact that a former consular officer has broken in such a way the faith and allegiance to his fatherland. In view, however, of these present accusations against the representatives of Austria-Hungary, the embassy emphatically declares these accusations as false and absolutely baseless, as an acknowledgment and would create the belief that our consulates actually engaged in activities in violation of the laws of this country. "The charges made by Dr. Gorlicar will be found on page 4 in today's Times."

U. S. Will Investigate Charges of Ex-Consul; News to Officials Here

An immediate investigation will be made of the statement of Dr. Josef Gorlicar that James F. Archibald, who was arrested in England some time ago for attempting to carry papers to Vienna for former Austrian Ambassador Dumba knew what the papers contained, it was announced by the Department of Justice today.

SIDDONS ALSO URGES ABOLITION OF LAW AT TAX RATE INQUIRY

Both Witnesses Assert Act Has Served Its Usefulness and Ask New Scheme To Govern Relations Between District and Federal Governments.

Former Senator Joseph C. S. Blackburn, father of the organic act of 1878, and Associate Justice Frederick L. Siddons, of the District Supreme Court, recommended the abolishment of the half-and-half plan before the fiscal inquiry committee today.

Both of these prominent witnesses told the investigating committee the half-and-half principle had served its usefulness, that it was a cause of constant wrangling in Congress, and that the Federal Government should end the controversy by taking over the Capital, appropriating for it and taxing residents here at a reasonable rate.

Mr. Blackburn and Justice Siddons appeared at the request of the investigating committee. The only other witness today was W. H. Saunders, a real estate operator, who advocated the retention of the existing fiscal arrangements.

One of the most emphatic statements made by former Senator Blackburn was: "The present District of Columbia committee in the House constitutes a nightmare that is found on the pillow of every District of Columbia resident when he goes to sleep at night."

PEOPLE OF DISTRICT FRIGHTENED.
"I think the people of the District," he said, "have been pretty badly frightened by the eternal wrangling over the half-and-half arrangement and the threats to disturb the present relations have hung like a nightmare over this community."

Mr. Blackburn detailed a conversation he had had with Mr. Macfarland, of the joint citizens' committee, during the past summer. He said he had told Mr. Macfarland he believed the District would get a fair deal from the investigating committee now at work on the District's problem.

Mr. Worthington asked if Mr. Blackburn knew that under the street extension law of 1893 property owners are paying for all extensions.

"That shouldn't be," said Mr. Blackburn. "The Federal Government, as I have said, ought to pay for every extension and for the entire development and ornamentation of the Capital. The plan I suggest is more fixed than the half-and-half plan. I suggest an absolute, definite tax rate of \$1.50 on two-third valuation. That is notice enough and does not constitute the "whim and caprice" of Congress to which you referred."

BLACKBURN FROM KENTUCKY.

Mr. Blackburn is from Kentucky, from which State hails Congressman Ben Johnson, chairman of the House District Committee, an inveterate foe of the half and half principle.

It was while Mr. Blackburn was chairman of the House District Committee that he fathered the organic act of 1878.

Mr. Blackburn told the committee that the amount of taxes paid by District residents should bear no relation whatever to the amount appropriated from the Federal Treasury for the for the Capital City. "If there must be a fixed proportion of contributions," he said, "the Federal Government ought to contribute 65 per cent and the District tax-payers 35 per cent."

This latter suggestion, however, he offered only as an alternative. He was most emphatic in telling the committee that the situation in the Capital today demands Federal control and Federal appropriations, and that the unnatural partnership no wexisting ought to be dissolved.

Both Mr. Blackburn and Justice Siddons recommended substantially the plan sponsored by Senator Works, of (Continued on Page Eighteen.)